

WHEEL OF FORTUNE

By Paul Steiner

Rock star Jon Bon Jovi may not really be convinced that Elvis Presley is still alive, but whenever he performs in Memphis, he leaves a backstage pass for Elvis "just in case."

Joseph Hazelwood, captain of the tanker *Exxon Valdez* that spilled massive amounts of oil along the Alaskan coast, always seemed to believe that nothing bad could befall him. The now ironic motto printed as the caption under his college year book proclaimed, "It can't happen to me."

A Brooklyn, New York, hospital staffer beat to death a man caught tampering with his \$26.00 windshield wipers in the hospital's parking lot.

Millionaire inventor Thomas Alva Edison often slept in a laboratory closet with his clothes on because he was convinced that taking them off promoted insomnia. He often boasted that he needed only three hours of sleep a night. But Ford Motor Company archives contain many historical photographs of Edison and his close friend, Henry Ford, in labs, workshops, at meetings

and picnics. Ford always shows up attentive and alert, but Edison frequently can be seen dozing or asleep in a chair, on a bench or on the ground.

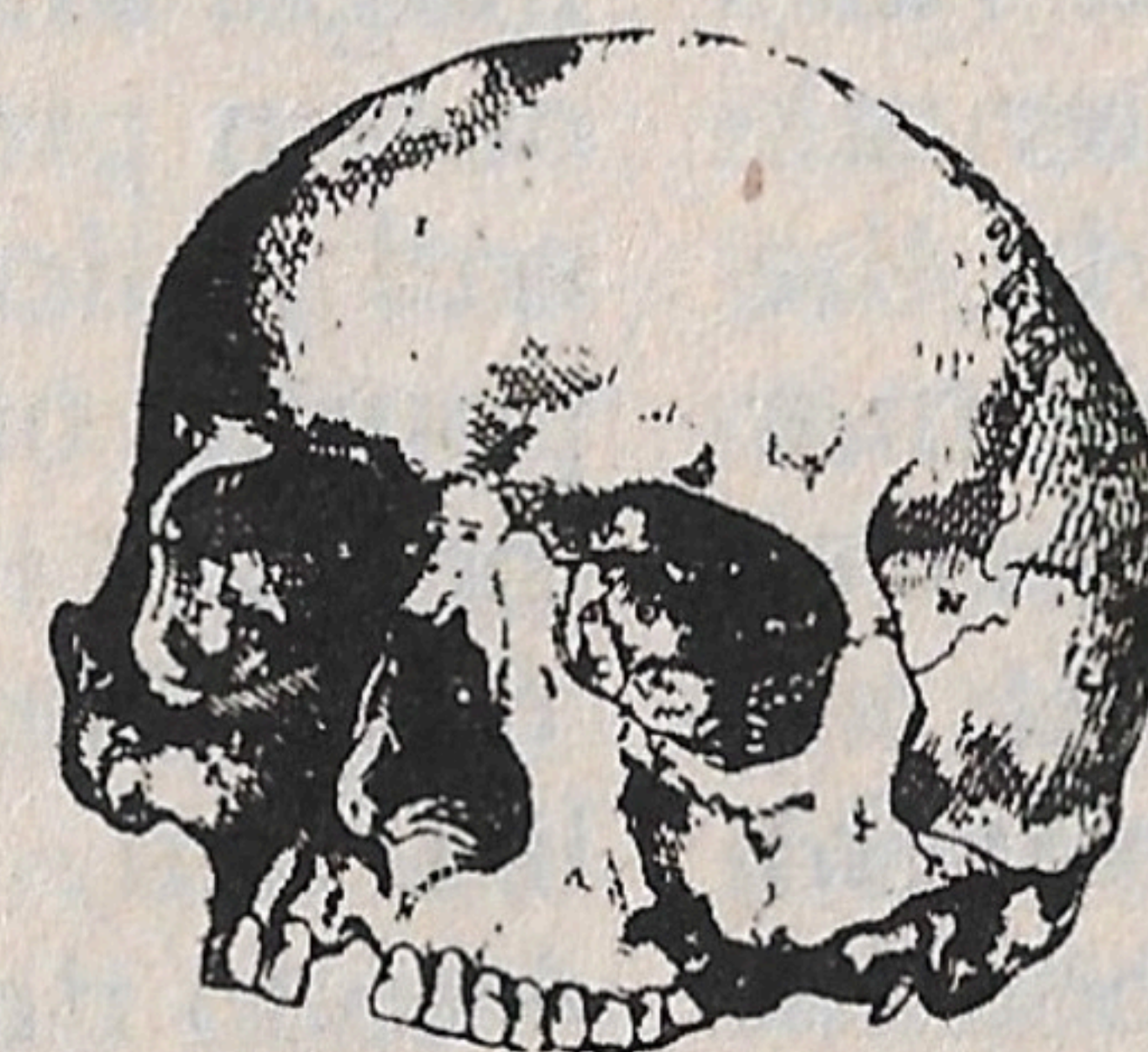
Traffic was stuck in the true sense of the word because a truck with 46,000 pounds of molasses overturned on Route 4 near Paramus, New Jersey, and about 100 pounds leaked out.

Volkswagen hands out \$300 in savings bonds to babies born in the back seat of a VW. So far over 400 infants have collected. Recently, a Great Dane bore a litter in the back seat of a VW. Her owner was gifted with a case of dog food.

Celebrity lawyer Marvin Mitchelson taped a segment for a 20/20 TV show at New York's Regency Hotel. By coincidence, it was done in suite 2020.

Polygram rock star Jackie Jackson might *Be The One*, but lately it's his head security man, Ray Grady, who's lucky. He played and won the lottery in three of the cities visited during Jackson's recent tour.

DRUGS AND DEVILTRY IN MEXICO



Here is the chilling background on what really happened in Metamoros, Mexico

By Chester S. Geier

A gruesome story of drug runners who practiced satanic rituals and human sacrifice to gain protection for their activities began unfolding in Mexico on April 9, 1989. Alerted to drug trafficking at the site, police were watching Rancho Santa Elena, 20 miles outside the town of Matamoros, owned by Elio Rivera Hernandez, leader of a drug smuggling family.

Alarmed when he encountered police while on his way to the ranch, Rivera fled onto the Property. He was pursued and caught, and a search of his car turned up marijuana. Returning with a search warrant, police found 75 pounds of marijuana and several ounces of cocaine in the ranch house.

At the same time, police were investigating the disappearance of Mark Kilroy, 21, a University of Texas senior, who had vanished two weeks earlier after celebrating spring vacation in the cantinas of Matamoros. Shown a photo of Kilroy, the caretaker at the ranch admitted that an American had been brought there under guard, and then he pointed to a wooden shack some 400 yards away.

At the shack police detected the overpowering stench of decaying flesh and found several shallow graves. Digging eventually uncovered the bodies of 13

males, one as young as 14. Some of the victims had been slashed with knives, others had their heads beaten in. One had been hanged, another burned to death and two had been riddled with bullets. Almost all showed indications of having been tortured and horribly mutilated, including having ears cut off and hearts ripped out.

In the shack, 15 by 25 feet in size, police found an iron kettle containing dried blood, a charred human brain and animal remains. In bowls was a nightmarish collection of items, including human hair, chicken parts and a goat's head.

Elio Rivera Hernandez led police to four suspects who were arrested and questioned. Bit by bit, there came to light the blood-chilling tale of a gang of drug smugglers who practiced black magic and human sacrifice to obtain protection from enemies and police while running 2,000 pounds of marijuana a week to the U.S.

Leader of the band, police learned, was a man named Adolfo de Jesus Constanzo. He conducted the murder rituals at Rancho Santa Elena. It was Constanzo who, in mid-March, ordered his followers to bring an American male to the ranch. This turned out to be the unfortunate Kilroy, and it was Constanzo

who executed Kilroy with a machete chop to the back of the neck.

As a search for Constanzo began, information on his background was pieced together. He was 26, lanky and red-haired, a Cuban who grew up in Miami and who had relatives there. He had a reputation as a clairvoyant and mystic, and belief in his occult powers reportedly inspired such loyalty in his followers that they called him *El Padrino*, the Godfather.

While still in his teens and living in South Florida, Constanzo practiced Santeria, a Caribbean form of Voodoo. Supporting this story, police turned up at the Matamoros ranch, along with the human remains, dozens of long candles and partly smoked cigars, as well as garlic and peppers—ritualistic accompaniments of an offshoot of Santeria called *Palo Mayombe*.

To gain the assistance of the devil, the murdering band of cultists boiled the brains and hearts of their victims, adding to this nauseating concoction human bones and animal heads. Within a few weeks of the discovery of the cult investigators learned its members may have been involved in at least 16 killings and likely as many as 24.

In addition to Constanzo, police sought a woman said to be

his companion, Sara Maria Aldrete, 24, a Mexican student at Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, across the border from Matamoros. During a search of Aldrete's Matamoros home, police found a blood-stained altar, decorated with candles.

On April 11, Aldrete related later, she and Constanzo were watching TV in his apartment in Mexico City when they heard a news report of the bodies found at Rancho Santa Elena. Aldrete said she questioned Constanzo about the bodies and he told her about the cult he led and its satanist activities.

Aldrete fled with Constanzo to a house he had outside Mexico City, then to a remote cabin and finally to the Mexico City apartment of members of the ring who had not yet been taken into custody. Police were on the trail of the remaining drug ring members, and on May 6 they closed in on the apartment where Constanzo and the others were hiding.

Ordered to surrender, the gang members began firing weapons to hold the police at bay. With bullets raining in through the windows and the threat of tear gas imminent, Constanzo realized he faced capture or death. He ordered the other men in the apartment to execute him and a companion, Martin Quintana

Rodriguez. They did so and then surrendered to police.

Taken into custody were three including Aldrete and two men. Another man and two women were arrested a few days later.

Questioned by police and later by reporters, Aldrete emotionally denied that she was the high priestess of Constanzo's satanist cult. She insisted she had not known of the ritual killings and had not participated in them. Further, she said, she was not a member of the cult but was being initiated into it.

A college sophomore standing an inch over six feet tall, Aldrete related that she met Constanzo on a street in Matamoros a year earlier and became friendly with him. He gave her a Tarot card reading, she said, and she was impressed with its accuracy. She found him very charismatic and was attracted to his mystical interests. She became a willing student of his in what she called "Christian Santeria," a blend of Voodoo, Roman Catholicism and old African beliefs.

She began living with Constanzo and introduced him to her former lover, Elio Rivera Hernandez. Rivera was immediately intrigued by the thoughts of magical protection Constanzo might offer his drug smuggling activities and an alliance was formed.

Aldrete added that she had nothing to do with marking of the bodies of some cult members with scars in the form of inverted crosses. These marks were signs that Constanzo had given them the authority to kill. Alvaro de Leon Valdez, a cult member, supported Aldrete's denials about being involved in the ritual killings. De Leon has admitted killing two victims and watching the murder of two others, including Mark Kilroy.

Investigators consulted authorities on primitive religions and cults in order to shed light on the symbolism behind the grisly evidence of human sacrifice found at Rancho Santa Elena. In the opinion of Carl Raschke, professor of World Religions at the University of Denver, the Mexican murder ring practiced "a custom-made religion, a synthetic satanism." It is strongly linked, he said, to a Mexican underground cult called *Santismo*, which includes the practice of cutting out human organs as sacrifices to gain magical strength from the gods. *Santismo*, Raschke added, is "based on fantasies about the ancient warrior strength and magic of the Aztecs."

"As best as I can see, what we've got here is a group doing its own thing, taking a little Bruja from Mexico, a little Santeria from Cuba and a little Satanism from the U.S.," stated J. Gordon

Melton, professor of religious studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Melton and other experts stressed that Santeria does *not* require human sacrifice in its rituals.

Santeria and Palo Mayombe, a similar religion with origins in the African Congo, involve the sacrifice of animals to a number of gods, according to Mercedes Sandoval, an anthropologist at

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County College. She and Raschke emphasized that the fear of death by drug smugglers was a force that would drive them into occult religions. The

appeal of Santeria is the promise of help here and now, while mainline religions are concerned with the hereafter.

Among Santeria's 40 gods, the hunting god *Ochosi* is often appealed to with animal sacrifices by those who engage in antisocial activities, Sandoval said. *Ochosi* is regarded as the owner of jails and inspires the belief that one can avoid jail by sacrificing to this god.

People who knew Constanzo related that he used his good looks, charm and claims of clairvoyance to attract prosperous or influential Mexicans as well as to

impress drug traffickers. Clients of his services in foretelling the future reportedly included important government officials and popular entertainers.

"He would tell rich people what to do to make things better, and since what he told them happened, they would pay him \$30,000 or \$40,000," said Constanzo's brother, Fausto

They practiced "a custom-made religion, a synthetic satanism."

Other experts stressed that Santeria does not require human sacrifice.

Rodriguez, 21, in Miami, reported the *Dallas Morning News* on May 14.

Constanzo's mother, Delia Gonzalez Del Valle, also of Miami, said, "He knew things." Among them, she explained, Constanzo predicted that former President Reagan would be shot in 1980, but would survive. And he predicted that a great tragedy would strike Mexico just months before the Mexico City earthquake of 1985.

At the age of 14 Constanzo dropped out of high school after

fathering a child by his 13-year-old girlfriend. He began claiming to have out-of-body experiences, to be able to heal the sick and to predict the future. He worked at odd jobs and in 1984 obtained a modeling job in Mexico City, where he fathered another child. He began attracting well-to-do clients for his readings, including a popular singer and a movie actress.

Constanzo flaunted the prosperity that came his way. He wore diamonds, sapphires and

rubies on every finger and drove a 1989 Mercedes Benz.

Mexican authorities revealed another facet to Constanzo. He was, they said, a bisexual who had affairs with several of his cult members. He twice bought a boyfriend \$10,000 worth of clothes in Brownsville, Texas.

For all his vaunted clairvoyance, the man admired as the Godfather failed to foresee that his "synthetic" satanic practices would do no more than result in disgrace and death.

OMEN OF DEATH OR LOVE BUG?

By Ida M. Pardue

No one knew it for years, but it was a mistake to call it the "Deathwatch" (or Death Tick) beetle.

The strange, rhythmic clicking made by the beetle was claimed to be an omen of death. "When the ticking stops, someone in the household will die," say the superstitious.

While the spooky sound of the Deathwatch beetle made in the dead of night terrorized listeners, entomologists spent a long time figuring it out.

The beetle isn't deadly at all. It's simply a grown-up "book

worm"—and a hungry one.

To get its favorite food, decayed wood, it bores its way into old furniture and house beams. There, hidden from sight, it does its strange behavior—it bangs its head against the wood at a set rhythm of seven to eight ticks per second.

So it isn't ticking off the time before someone dies. In fact, the noise is a mating call, the sound of one beetle hoping that another beetle (of the opposite sex) will hear and come running!

I wonder if there is a more appropriate name for this beetle?

THE REINCARNATION RETURN OF HEUNG JIN NIM

Heung Jin Nim died from injuries sustained in
a car accident on January 2, 1984.

He returned to physical embodiment in the summer of 1987.

By Joel Bjorling

Heung Jin Nim was the second son of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, founder of the controversial Unification Church whose followers are disparagingly called "Moonies." Moon and the Church have raised intense public ire due to allegations of spying, brainwashing, mind-control and unorthodox interpretations of Christian doctrines. Moon spent some time in prison due to tax problems.

Rev. Moon's story began with an alleged spiritual encounter with Jesus who, Moon claimed, commissioned him to complete the work that He had left unfinished. *The Outline of the Principle*, a summary of the *Divine Principle*, a basic text of Rev. Moon's theology, states that he (Moon) "wandered through the invisible (spirit) world which is the world of cause, seeking to

solve all the fundamental questions about life and the universe." In the spirit world, Moon "freely communicated with Jesus and the saints in Paradise."

THE UNIFICATION CHURCH AND THE SPIRIT WORLD

Some of the Church's major teachings concern the spirit world, including the belief that spirit beings assist in the spiritual development of people on earth. Church leader Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak stated that Rev. Moon's "teaching has not only opened the door to us to believe in the spirit world, but we also have a clear and logical understanding of it. If we sincerely and correctly apply our knowledge, we can receive great spiritual assistance in our personal growth and healing and in the accomplishment of our various responsibilities."